

I. In the Drawings

In the Notice of Allowance dated April 28, 2006, the Examiner has required submission of corrected drawing figures. Applicant has attached replacement sheets for the drawing figures including labels and numbers for each identified element in the figures.

REMARKS

The cancellation and amendment to the claims attached hereto does not require any additional search or examination on behalf of the Examiner and does not add any new subject matter to the claims that has not already been considered by the Examiner. Claims 26-33 are dependent upon independent claim 23, and claims 37-44 were dependent upon independent claim 34. The two sets of dependent claims were distinguishable because of the different limitations taught in the two independent claims 23 and 34. However, one of the Examiner's amendments was to cancel independent claim 34 and cause claims 37-44 to be dependent upon claim 23. As a result of the Examiner's amendment, claims 26-33 and 37-44 are repetitive. To eliminate this repetitiveness, the Applicant hereby cancels claims 37-44 and respectfully requests that the amendments to the claims be entered into the record.

Additionally, in the Examiner's amendments, the Examiner inadvertently referred to the Applicant's formula as $(1/n) \sum \text{abs}(r_i - s_j)$ rather than the originally disclosed formula $(1/n) \sum \text{abs}(r_i - s_i)$. The Applicant has amended the j variable referred to by the Examiner to the i variable originally taught by Applicant in the specification and claims. This amendment does not add any new subject matter but merely corrects a typographical error in the Examiner's amendment. The Applicant hereby requests that this amendment be entered into the record.

Finally, the Examiner objected to the Applicant's informal drawings. The Examiner stated in the Notice of Allowance that "formal drawings where all labels and identifying numbers are printed" would be sufficient to overcome the objection. Applicant has amended the drawings and attached Replacement sheets for Figures 1-3 in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121(d) and according to the Examiner's objection. See attached. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner remove this objection.

Applicant hereby requests that these amendments to the claims and the attached drawing figures be entered into the record. Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be

helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that she be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
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